பொதுவானது. அப்படியிருக்கும்போது எதிர்க் கட்சி உப தலைவர் தங்களுக்குத்தான் அதிகமாகச் சலுகை கொடுக்கப்படவேண்டும் என்று சொல்லுகிறார். ஆனால் சட்டசபை அலுவல்களைப் பொறுத்த வரையில் எல்லா அங்கத்தினர்களும் சமம் என்று சட்ட சபை விதிகள் சொல்லுகின்றன. எதிர்க் கட்சி உப தலைவர் சொல்வது விதிக்கு முரண்பாடாக இருக்கிறது. இதைக் கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்கள் அனுமதிக்கிறாரா என்று கேட்கிறேன்."

MR. SPEAKER :—" இங்கு எல்லோரும் சமம்தான்."

Dispute between the workers and the management of the Malabar Spinning and Weaving Mills, Tiruvannoor, Kozhikode.

* 947 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that the Labour Officer, Malabar, has recommended to the Government to refer the dispute between the workers and the management of the Malabar Spinning and Weaving Mills, Tiruvannoor, Kozhikode, regarding the bonus due from 1948 for adjudication; and

(*b*) if so, the action taken by the Government thereon?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) Yes, Sir.

" (*b*) The Government examined the representation and considered that the request for the grant of bonus for 1948–50 was belated and that the management did not earn sufficient profits during 1951–52 to declare a bonus to the workers. So the dispute was not referred to adjudication, and the Cotton Mill Workers' Union, Kallai, was informed accordingly."

SRI K. P. GOPALAN :—" May I ask the Hon. Minister for Labour to have the accounts of the company inspected to verify whether there had been profit or not and find out whether the workers' point of view or the management's point of view is correct? If the accounts reveal that there has been profit, will the Hon. Minister for Labour refer the matter to the Adjudication Court and await its judgment?"

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" The Labour Department do not invariably inspect the profit and loss accounts of companies. But when the Labour Department itself is satisfied that there was no profit for a company during a particular year, they report it to Government and Government agree with the Labour Commissioner that such matters should not be referred to adjudication. I do not think this matter should be reopened again."

Issue of liquor permits in South Arcot.

* 948 *Q.*—SRI M. JAGANNATHAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Religious Endowments and Transport be pleased to state the total number of liquor permits issued for the years 1951–52 and 1952–53 in the South Arcot district?

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THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The total number of liquor permits issued in the South Arcot district was 29 in 1951–52 and 18 in 1952–53."

SRI M. JAGANNATHAN :—" May I know how many of the liquor permit holders are officials? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The figures are not readily available, Sir."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" What are the reasons that the Government can adduce for the reduction in the figures for liquor permits during the year 1952–53 when compared to the previous year 1951–52? "

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" The hon. Member himself can infer the reasons."

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" I rise on a point of order, Sir. I ask for information and I am entitled to get the information and the Minister is bound to give the information. How can the Minister throw the burden on me and say that I can infer the reason? " 8-40 a.m.

MR. SPEAKER :—" What has the Speaker to do with the method of answering questions? He cannot ask the Minister to answer in such and such a manner. Anyway, how is the point a point of order? "

SRI K. VINAYAKAM :—" The point of order is this. Is the Minister entitled to evade answering a pertinent question? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" If the hon. Member thinks that the Minister is evading the question, he has a weapon in his own hands."

SRI S. DEIVASIGAMANY :—" I can understand the Hon. Minister saying that he has no information or refusing to answer by keeping quiet. But can he answer by putting another question? "

MR. SPEAKER :—" Whatever that may be, the Speaker cannot compel a Minister to answer in such and such a way. If the Members are not satisfied with an answer, they have got a weapon in their own hands."

Expenditure on purchase of slates and books by the Panchayat Board, Kankole, North Malabar.

* 949 *Q.*—SRI K. P. GOPALAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have received any request from the Panchayat Board, Kankole, North Malabar, for approving the expenditure on purchase of slates and books for the poor students studying in the Elementary Schools in the panchayat area; and

(*b*) whether the Government have sanctioned it, and if not, the reasons therefor?